

THE HONORABLE RICARDO S. MARTINEZ

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)	No. CR19-261-RSM
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	ORDER GRANTING UNOPPOSED
v.)	MOTION TO SCHEDULE GUILTY
)	PLEA HEARING VIA
AUDREY NOLAND-JAMES,)	VIDEOCONFERENCE
)	
Defendant.)	

THE COURT has considered the unopposed motion of the parties to proceed forward with a guilty plea hearing via videoconference and finds that:

(a) Under General Order 04-20, felony pleas and sentencings may proceed by video or telephone if “the district judge in a particular case finds for specific reasons that the plea or sentencing in that case cannot be further delayed without serious harm to the interests of justice.” A plea hearing in this case cannot be delayed without serious harm to the interests of justice; and

(b) Ms. Noland-James would like to plead guilty and resolve the case in a timely fashion; and

(c) Ms. Noland-James wishes to enter a plea as soon as possible in light of anticipated delay associated with the COVID pandemic and a desire to alleviate presumptive backlogged court calendars following the COVID recovery process. Ms.

1 Noland-James believes that the Court may not be as able to accommodate a timely
2 resolution of his case in the future as more cases are delayed; and

3 (d) a videoconference guilty plea hearing would avoid further delays in the
4 ultimate sentencing in this case, which would cause “serious harm to the interests of
5 justice.” See General Order No. 04-20 (3/30/20).

6 IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that this matter should be set for a guilty plea
7 hearing via videoconference at the earliest practicable date and after coordination
8 between the Court and the parties.

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10 DONE this 28th day of September, 2020.

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13 RICARDO S. MARTINEZ
14 CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT
15 JUDGE

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18 Presented by:

19 /s/ Gregory Geist

20 Assistant Federal Public Defender
21 Attorney for Audrey Noland-James